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(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: WU, Yingliu [NZ/NZ]; 291 Cambridge Road,
Hillcrest, Hamilton (NZ). MITCHELL, John, Stanton
[NZ/NZ]; 24 Basley Road, Rotorua (NZ).

(74) Agents: CALHOUN, Douglas, C et al.; A J Park, 6th
Floor Huddart Parker Building, Post Office Square, P O
Box 949, Wellington, 6015 (NZ).

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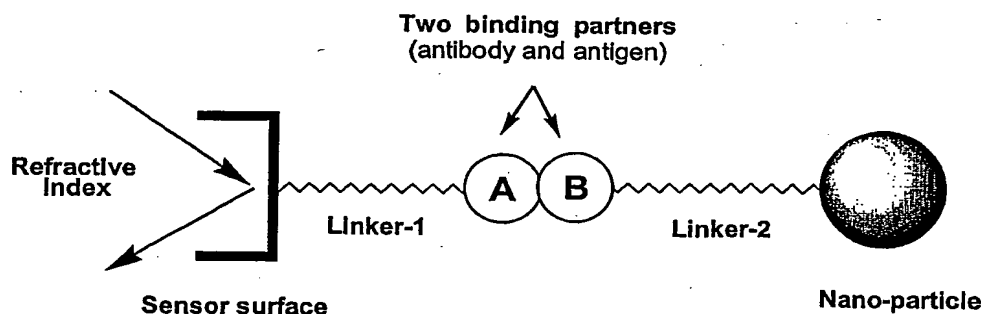
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A new optical biosensor-based immunoassay design

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for detecting a hapten in a sample comprising the steps of: a) providing a sample potentially containing the hapten; b) providing a pre-determined amount of a first moiety, said first moiety being bound to a signaller and separated therefrom by a first linker, which first moiety is either: i) a binding partner that specifically binds to the hapten of interest, or ii) the hapten of interest or an analogue thereof; wherein said signaller is a macromolecule or a nanoparticle providing high mass signal; c) providing a flow of a) and b) separately or together to an immobilised second moiety, said second moiety being bound to the surface of a sensor and separated therefrom by a second linker, which second moiety is either: i) a binding partner that specifically binds to the hapten of interest, or ii) is the hapten of interest or an analogue thereof, providing that when the first moiety is a binding partner, the second moiety is a hapten or hapten analogue and when the first moiety is a hapten or hapten analogue, the second moiety is a binding partner; and d) detecting the amount of first moiety bound to second moiety.